

**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application as amended. In response to the Office Action mailed 4/8/04, Applicant is filing this amendment. Please amend claims 1-6, 10-14, 16, 19-21, 24-27, 30-33, 35, 37, 39-41, 43 and 45. Accordingly, claims 1-6, 8, 10-14, 16-22, 24-28, 30-33 and 35-45 are still pending.

In the Office Action mailed 4/8/04, the Examiner has rejected the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hagersten et al. (U.S. Patent 5,987,549). Applicant submits that Hagersten et al. (Hagersten) fails to disclose the elements of the independent claims, as amended.

The Examiner has noted Hagersten as teaching an agent that is given default grant. The Examiner has noted the text at column 7, lines 55-67 of Hagersten, as teaching the aspects of a default grant. However, Hagersten discloses a round-robin arbitration method that ensures that one circuit board will be a default winner. This winner may drive the address bus and its request line in the same cycle. All other boards can drive the address bus, only after winning arbitration. In any address arbitration cycle, if there are requests from boards other than the default winner, a new default winner is chosen. If there are no requests from other boards, the default winner remains the same (Hagersten at col. 7, lines 55-67). Thus, in Hagersten, a default winner changes depending on which board wins the arbitration.

The amended claims of the present application claim an agent that is selected as a predetermined default agent and this agent alone is given default grant. Thus, the default grant is maintained by the same agent, even though it and other agents may seek arbitration and win arbitration of the bus. This default grant allows the one predetermined default agent to use the bus, when other agents are not arbitrating for the bus. This aspect of the amended claims is not disclosed in Hagersten. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection and allow pending claims 1-6, 8, 10-14, 16-22, 24-28, 30-33 and 35-45, as amended.

Since this response is being submitted within the first extension period, Applicant is submitting a petition to respond in the first month of the extension period. An extension fee payment and statement is included with this submission. However, if there are any fee shortages related to this response, please charge such fee shortages to Deposit Account No. 50-2126.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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